

Message Text

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ACTION DLOS-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 FEA-01 ACDA-07 AGRE-00
AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00
DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-08 EPA-01 ERDA-05 FMC-01 TRSE-00
H-01 INR-07 INT-05 IO-13 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
NSF-01 OES-06 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 SAL-01 SAJ-01 /130 W
-----101329Z 123976 /53

P 101020Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5403
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY SEOUL PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 TOKYO 2001

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PLOS, EFIS, JA, UR
SUBJECT: JAPAN AND THE SOVIET 200-MILE FISHING ZONE

SUMMARY: FONOFF OFFICIAL SAID AGMIN SUZUKI
LIKELY TO ACCEPT INVITATION TO VISIT MOSCOW TO DISCUSS
MODALITIES FOR JAPANESE ACCESS TO SOVIET 200-MILE
EXCLUSIVE FISHING ZONE WITH FISHMIN ISHKOV.
ISHKOV IS REPORTED TO REGARD EARLY HIGH-LEVEL MEETING
ESSENTIAL TO SUCCESS OF REGULAR BILATERAL TALKS
SCHEDULED TO BEGIN MARCH 15. FONOFF THINKS USSR WILL
BE FAIRLY ACCOMMODATING RE JAPANESE FISHING IN ITS
200-MILE ZONE, RATHER THAN PROVOKE SET-TO OVER
NORTHERN TERRITORIES, JEAPORDIZE SOVIET FISHERIES OFF
JAPANESE COAST AND, INEVITABLY, STRAIN OVERALL
BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP. END SUMMARY.

1. PROMPTED BY MOSCOW-DATeline ARTICLES IN JAPANESE
PRESS TO EFFECT THAT SOVIET FISHMIN ISHKOV HAD ASKED
FOR EARLY VISIT BY AGMIN ZENKO SUZUKI TO DISCUSS
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USSR 200-MILE EXCLUSIVE FISHERIES ZONE (EFZ), EMBOFF
SOUGHT BRIEFING FROM FONOFF FIRST EAST EUROPEAN DEP/DIR
AOKI ON OUTLOOK FOR JAPAN-SOVIET FISHERIES NEGOTIATIONS.
AOKI CONFIRMED AND ELABORATED ON SUBSTANCE OF NEWSPAPER
ACCOUNTS: THAT AMBASSADOR SHIGEMITSU AND
VISITING OCEANIC FISHERIES DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR AKIRA
MATSURA HAD CALLED ON ISHKOV FEBRUARY 8 TO SOUND OUT

SOVIET THOUGHTS ON NEGOTIATING JAPANESE ACCESS TO 200-MILE ZONE THAT USSR HAS SAID IT WILL PROCLAIM; THAT TAKING NOTE OF REGULAR BILATERAL FISHERIES TALKS SCHEDULED FOR TOKYO IN MID-MARCH, ISHKOV HAD SAID THERE WAS NO POINT IN MEETING UNTIL A SUZUKI VISIT TO MOSCOW HAD LAID GROUNDWORK; AND THAT HE WOULD AIM WITH SUZUKI AT WORKING OUT MUTUALLY SATISFACTORY WAY OF COPING WITH EXPANSION OF SOVIET FISHERIES JURISDICTION.

2. ACCORDING TO AOKI, SUZUKI, WHOSE DOMAIN INCLUDES FISHERIES AGENCY AND WHO HAS BEEN FOR YEARS ACKNOWLEDGED SPOKESMAN FOR FISHERIES INTERESTS, WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY GO TO MOSCOW IN NEAR FUTURE. PRESS, HOWEVER, HAS REPORTED FISHERIES AGENCY RATHER RESERVED IN COMMENT ON ISHKOV INVITATION. JAPANESE WOULD HAVE PREFERRED TO NEGOTIATE FIRST AT LOWER LEVELS, AND THEN CALL IN PRINCIPALS; WE DEDUCE THAT FONOFF SEES IN INVITATION SUFFICIENT PROSPECT OF EARLY AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE TO FIND IT ATTRACTIVE.

3. AOKI SAID JAPANESE REGARD PRESENT BILATERAL FISHERIES AGREEMENT AS SUFFICIENTLY BROAD TO COMPREHEND SOVIET 200-MILE REGIME, WITH ONE EXCEPTION -- ENFORCEMENT. UNDER PRESENT HIGH-SEAS REGIME EACH PARTY ENFORCES AGREEMENT WITH RESPECT TO OWN VESSELS. ADDRESSEES WILL RECALL THAT ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITY WAS MAJOR BONE OF CONTENTION IN US-JAPAN NEGOTIATIONS ON 200-MILE EFZ; WITH PRECEDENT NOW CONFIDENTIAL

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ESTABLISHED, AOKI SAID, JAPANESE EXPECT TO WORK OUT WITH SOVIETS AMENDMENT TO PRESENT JAPAN-USSR TREATY ACKNOWLEDGING SOVIET RIGHT TO POLICE 200-MILE ZONE UNILATERALLY. FONOFF CONTEMPLATES THAT AGREEMENT ON ENFORCEMENT WOULD GO INTO EFFECT PROVISIONALLY, AND BECOME PERMANENT WHEN RATIFIED BY DIET WITHIN NEXT YEAR OR SO.

4. AOKI ANTICIPATED THAT USSR WOULD BE FLEXIBLE IN DEALING WITH JAPANESE REGARDING EFZ. MOST IMPORTANTLY, HE SAID, WHEREAS FISHERIES ONLY SMALL STRAND IN THICK WEB OF US-JAPAN RELATIONS, THEY BULK LARGE IN SOVIET-JAPAN TIE. TOUGH SOVIET STANCE ON FISHERIES WOULD THEREFORE INEVITABLY HAVE SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES FOR RELATIONSHIP, AOKI STATED. SOVIETS HAVE REPEATEDLY EMPHASIZED TO JAPANESE THAT THEIR PLAN TO DECLARE 200-MILE ZONE IS "PURELY DEFENSIVE" REACTION TO US, CANADIAN AND EC MEASURES. MOREOVER, AOKI SAID, SOVIET NEGOTIATORS WILL EVIDENTLY ENJOY GREATER LATITUDE

IN TAILORING BILATERAL AGREEMENTS PURSUANT TO
ESTABLISHMENT OF EFZ TO NEEDS OF OTHER PARTIES.
FINALLY, ALTHOUGH JAPANESE HAUL FROM WATERS OFF
USSR IN RECENT YEARS HAD BEEN MORE THAN TWICE
THAT OF RUSSIANS OFF JAPAN, TWO COUNTRIES WERE IN
MAIN EXPLOITING DIFFERENT SPECIES; THUS, AOKI SAID,
SOVIETS WILL NOT WANT TO SQUEEZE JAPANESE SO MUCH THAT
GOJ PUSHED TOWARD ESTABLISHMENT OF OWN 200-MILE
EFZ.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 TOKYO 2001

5. CONCLUDING NEW AGREEMENT WITHOUT STIRRING UP
LONG-STANDING NORTHERN TERRITORIES DISPUTE WILL BE
IMPORTANT TEST OF SOVIET FLEXIBILITY, AOKI
ADDED. OBVIOUSLY SOVIETS WILL DRAW BASELINES FROM
DISPUTED ISLANDS. HOWEVER, AOKI SAID FLATLY, JAPANESE
WILL NOT SIGN ANY AGREEMENT WHICH PREJUDICES THEIR
CLAIM TO NORTHERN TERRITORIES.

6. EMBOFF ASKED IF FISHERIES TALKS WOULD BE
INFLUENCED BY LINGERING SOVIET PIQUE OVER
BELENKO/MIG-25 AFFAIR. AOKI THOUGHT NOT; IT WOULD
BE "BUSINESS AS USUAL." SOVIET OFFICIALS IN TOKYO
CONTINUE ASSIDUOUSLY TO SEARCH FOR (AND IMAGINE)
SIGNS OF JAPANESE REGRET OVER THEIR MANAGEMENT OF
AFFAIR, HE ADDED, BUT ITS EFFECT LINGERS ONLY, IF AT
ALL, IN UNCERTAINTY RE FOREIGN TRADE MINISTER PATOLOCHEV'S

PROJECTED VISIT TO TOKYO. SOVIETS HERE SAY HE IS EAGER
TO COME, BUT JAPANESE INQUIRIES IN MOSCOW MEET ONLY
STUDIED EVASION.
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Message Attributes

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TAGS: PLOS, EFIS, JA, UR, (ISHKOV)
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